



**Rockford Area Transportation Study
Metropolitan Planning Organization**

City of Rockford, Public Works Department
425 East State Street, Rockford, IL 61104

POLICY COMMITTEE

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Transportation, Region 2

**RATS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
November 16, 2006**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Long, IDOT, District 2; Jon McCormick, IDOT; Joe Vanderwerff, Sr., Winnebago County Highway Department; Patrick Zuroske, City of Rockford, Public Works Department; Dan Jacobson, City of Loves Park, Public Works Department; Chad Atkinson, Village of Machesney Park; James Johnson, Rockford Mass Transit District (RMTD); Paula Hughes, RMTD; Nathan Bruck, City of Loves Park, Community Development Department; David Nord, Village of Cherry Valley; Aaron Rucker, City of Rockford, Community Development Department; Reggie Arkell, Winnebago County Regional Planning and Economic Development Department; Adam Tegen, Belvidere / Boone County Regional Planning Department; Rich Lundin, Boone County Highway Department; Brent Anderson, City of Belvidere, Public Works Department; David Noel, Village of Roscoe.

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Chicago/Rockford International Airport; Village of Winnebago.

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Bunny Anderson, Illinois State Toll Highway Authority; Bob Soltau, State Line Area Transportation Study (SLATS); John Donovan, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Illinois Division; Mike Olson, Rock River Water Reclamation District; John Slattengren, Boone County Council on Aging.

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Ernst, RATS Study Director; Gary McIntyre, City of Rockford and RATS Staff; Tonia Vrolyk, City of Rockford Public Works Department; Greg Orput, Orput Comp. Inc.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ernst at 10:03 a.m. with a quorum present.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 20, 2006 & AUGUST 17, 2006 RATS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Laid over.

2. AGENCY REPORTS

2.1 Illinois Department of Transportation, District 2 – Interchange project underway – making good progress.

2.2 Winnebago County Highway Department – No report

2.3 City of Rockford, Public Works Department – Harrison Avenue is 35% complete. Auburn Street is complete.

2.4 City of Loves Park, Public Works Department – No further report. The Riverside project is in Winnebago County, not Loves Park.

2.5 Village of Machesney Park – Transportation – TIP proposed for next three years to Village Public Works Committee.

2.7 Rockford Mass Transit District – Moving forward on Paratransit building. Hopefully, out to bid this year.

2.8 City of Loves Park, Community Development Department – No report

2.9 Village of Cherry Valley – No report

2.10 City of Rockford, Community Development Department – 20/20 Land Use Plan has been converted to GIS. See all land uses on one map as well as the 43 map grid.

2.11 Winnebago County Planning and Economic Development Dept. – Land use planning initiative is underway. Community focus group had first meeting.

2.12 Belvidere / Boone County Regional Planning Department – See item three. Public open house for Route 173 Corridor Plan on November 16, 2006 at 111 First Street, Belvidere, IL.

2.13 Boone County Highway Department – No report

2.14 City of Belvidere, Public Works Department – No report

2.15 Village of Roscoe – McDonald Road resurfacing this week. Pedestrian path was also completed last week.

2.18 Illinois State Toll Highway Authority – All 20 plazas open to open road tolling. System wide reconstructing and widening. Some additional widening. Noise studies complete. I-355 is 35% complete – will be completed next year. Refer to handout on specific status. I-90 – upgrades in 2008/2009. Cherry Valley interchange design is underway.

2.20 IDOT, Division of Urban Program Planning – Statewide plan contract to be signed (Statewide Long-range transportation plan) soon. Assistance to MPO for Gap Planning Analysis – should also be signed soon.

Mr. McIntyre indicated that RATS will be hosting a Safe Routes to Schools contract in February or March. The project was awarded to the League of Illinois Bicyclists.

2.22 Boone County Council on Aging – Mr. Slattengren stated that they are trying to program a bus transit from Boone County to RMTD. There is a lot of interest. It will eventually connect to the East Side Transfer Center.

2.23 State Line Area Transportation Study – South Central Wisconsin Transit Feasibility Study. Northeast Winnebago County Area Transit System Study – working with IDOT on funding. Asked Illinois Tollway progress on I-90/39 third lanes. SLATS meeting December 1, 2006, on amendment to TIP for Northeast Winnebago Area Transit Study.

2.24 Federal Highway Administration, Illinois Division – Planning regulations for SAFETEA-LU released in January/February 2007.

2.26 Rock River Water Reclamation District – Rockford southeast trunk sewer – airport to Baxter and I-39 – will start up again (Engineering 70% done).

- 3. IL 173 CORRIDOR PLAN:** In October 1994, RATS adopted a corridor access plan for IL 173 between IL 251 and Belvidere Road. Since that time, the planned development that was anticipated to occur in this corridor is currently underway. As a result of the economic and residential development in the past six-years, the construction of the planned interchange at Interstate 39/90 (Northwest Tollway), and future

growth capability in this section of Winnebago County / Loves Park / Machesney Park, an updated access plan has been prepared to facilitate travel patterns that are expected to occur within the planning horizon. At the May 25, 2006 Policy Committee meeting, an update plan was adopted by the RATS Policy Committee. Since that time, the Village of Machesney Park has received another request for access from IL 173.

- Commercial access requested between Alpine and Continental.
- Machesney Park would like to see consideration of addition of this access point to the plan – even though it is not consistent with the plan.
- Machesney Park has requested Technical Committee to make recommendation to Policy.
- Mr. McIntyre wrote a letter in December 2005 (copy provided) – He distributed it and recommended that RATS not make a recommendation as an organization. The agency with jurisdiction should be the decision maker. Planning portion should end and implementation should begin. He noted that IL Route 173 is a NHS route.
- IDOT – Mr. Long and Mr. McCormick gave a presentation on intersection geometrics. IDOT had previously rejected this intersection. There is 880 feet between the Alpine and Continental intersections. Travel time (three second) cannot be maintained. The plat for the parcel did not grant access. Request not consistent with the access plan.
- Greg Orput: Arc Design Geometric Study – trying to establish whether it has been done in other areas (in District 2). District I – 70 conditions. Found five in District II. Pulled accident data on those locations – low occurrence rate. Request is market driven.
- Machesney Park made a motion to move Addendum to Access Plan to Policy Committee without recommendation. Loves Park seconded the motion.
- Roll Call Vote: 13 Ayes – 1 Nay. Motion approved.

David Nord, Village of Cherry Valley, left the meeting at this time.

4. CITY OF ROCKFORD PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM: City of Rockford–Public Works Department staff will make a presentation on this asset management program.

Laid over.

5. RATS FY 2008 UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM (UWP): Discussions on the planning work activities for next year's (July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008) UWP.

Mr. McIntyre indicated that:

- (1) We need hours documentation for work program from some members from July 2005 – to July 2006.
- (2) Planning funds for RATS FY 2008 – Mr. McIntyre presented the requests and discussed them. He stated that any additional requests should be made soon.

6. RATS FY 2007 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT: The Rockford Mass Transit District (RMTD) needs to amend the TIP for expansion of bus service to the Village of Cherry Valley – **RATS RESOLUTION 2006-10**

RMTD: Ms. Hughes presented Resolution 2006-10 to the TIP. Seconded by Mr. Vanderwerff of Winnebago County Highway Department.

This resolution would extend RMTD service to Cherry Vale Mall for one year.

Two big vehicles may be changed to several smaller vehicles.

Motion is approved with voice vote.

7. PROGRESS REPORTS ON:

7.1 Winnebago County Smart Growth Study – Study is progressing.

7.2 NICTI Alternative Analysis – Second open house tonight at Belvidere.

7.3 RMTD East Side Transfer Center – Finalizing contract on land acquisition. Will have zoning change application to City of Rockford.

7.4 IL 173 Corridor Planning Study (by Machesney Park) – Boone County is considering revising their portion of the plan. Additional study is moving along.

7.5 RATS Bicycle / Pedestrian Study – Study is progressing. Preliminary maps showing gaps in sidewalks. Making recommendations for route striping. Schedule for draft – January/February of 2007.

7.6 Boone County IL 173 Corridor Study (by Boone County Highway Dept) – Belvidere/Boone County: NE transportation/ land use study – November 30 open house. Consultant meeting with various municipalities and IDOT. Draft Spring of 2007.

7.7 City of Belvidere / Boone County: NE Transportation / Land Use Study – Has not started yet.

8. COMMUNICATIONS

USDOT Fed Hwy – standards. Document available from RATS staff.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

No items or questions about RATS retreat directed to RATS staff. The RATS Policy Committee Meeting is in two weeks at Rockford City Hall (November 30, 2006).

10. ADJOURNMENT

At 11:46 a.m., Mr. Ernst made a motion to adjourn. It was unanimously adopted.